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Memorandum for: *Maria*

Source

Unclassified Summary of Public Positions
on INF

Daily Summary of Positions on INF --
Classified Developments

Talking Points for DCI - Impact of
Vice President Bush's Trip on European
Public Opinion

Briefing Materials for the DCI on the
Bush Trip

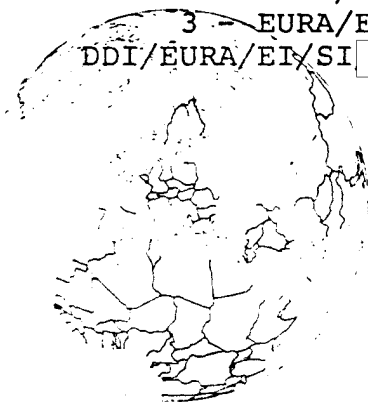
Special Assessment of the Impact of
Vice President Bush's Trip on European
Public Opinion

Distribution:

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DAILY SUMMARY OF PUBLIC POSITIONS ON INF

Allied governments publicly are continuing to stress their adherence to the dual decision and the zero option, but are increasingly indicating their willingness eventually to explore other alternatives. Moscow, meanwhile, has once again implied it opposes even partial NATO INF deployment.

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UK During "Question Time" in Commons Tuesday, Thatcher emphasized that although the zero option was the most desirable outcome of negotiations, the US should seek to "balance numbers" at Geneva if the option was unobtainable.

Germany Kohl earlier this week called the zero option the "optimum solution." In interviews after the Gromyko visit to Bonn, Kohl strongly refuted Gromyko's allegations that the US was not negotiating seriously in Geneva. He maintained that if his government abandoned the zero option, the US position would be weakened. He said also that efforts to drive a wedge between the US and West Germany would not succeed. Conversely, Genscher and Foreign Minister State Secretary Moellemann again raised the possibility of an "interim solution." Genscher emphasized that the Western position was not one of "all or nothing" and Moellemann underscored that the FDP would stick with the position. Both Kohl and Genscher called for a US-Soviet summit.

France According to press reports, President Mitterrand yesterday defended the NATO dual track approach in his speech to the Bundestag. Mitterrand warned that any decoupling of Western Europe from the US would be dangerous for peace and security. He also reaffirmed that French nuclear forces "cannot be taken into account at the Geneva negotiations" and said that France would reject any agreement counting French forces as part of the European balance. In another press report Wednesday, Defense Minister Hernu said that an eventual solution at Geneva would fall somewhere between the zero option and current Soviet proposals.

Italy Last week, Foreign Minister Colombo told the Italian news service Ansa that Italy would "consider without prejudice any serious proposal for disarmament from the East" even if it seemed "insufficient." In subsequent press comments, he asserted that intermediary positions based on "balance and parity" were acceptable. Yesterday, after discussions in Bonn with Genscher, both again indicated that an interim solution was a possibility.

USSR Tass yesterday replayed a press article by a Soviet Central Committee staffer which rejects partial deployment as a possible compromise negotiating outcome. As yet, there have been no official Soviet public statements on yesterday's Washington Post report that Moscow will halt START if there is any NATO INF deployment.

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